Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace any/all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a temperature sensitive natural filler-reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition as an article which comprises:

(a) extrusion melt-forming through a die in a first extruder a first mixture to form first strands, the first mixture consisting essentially of a high melting temperature thermoplastic polymer ~~melting at~~ with a first melting temperature of 200°C or above and which has been pre-dried to remove moisture~~, with a first melting temperature with~~ and a metal chloride, bromide or iodide salt, wherein (i) the salt is present in an amount between about 2.5 and 5 percent by weight of the polymer ~~which~~ and (ii) the salt reduces the melting temperature of the first mixture to a second lower melting temperature of less than 200°C ~~to form first strands~~;

(b) pelletizing the first strands to form pellets; and

(c) extruding a second mixture of a temperature sensitive natural filler~~, consisting essentially of cut fibers selected from the group consisting of a plant leaf, seed, stalk and combinations thereof,~~ and the pellets in a second extruder, at the second lower melting temperature of less than 200°C without degrading the temperature sensitive natural filler to form second strands of the natural filler-reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition, wherein the temperature sensitive natural filler consists essentially of cut fibers selected from the group consisting of a plant leaf, seed, stalk and combinations thereof and, without the metal salt, the extrusion with the temperature sensitive natural filler degrades the temperature sensitive natural filler.

2. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein the fibers are selected from the group consisting of hemp, flax, kenaf, jute, sisal, pineapple leaf fiber, coir, henequen, corn, cotton, and mixtures thereof.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1 or 2 wherein the thermoplastic polymer is selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polybutylene terephthalate (PBT), polytrimethylterephthalate

(PTT), ethylene carbon monoxide (ECM), propylene oxide (PPO), polystyrene copolymer blends, polyacetals, cellulose butyrate, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS), methyl methacrylates, polychlorotrifluoroethylene polymers, and mixtures thereof.

5. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1 or 2 wherein the metal in the metal salt forms a reaction product with the polymer in the melt.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein in addition the filler reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition is molded into a shape.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein a glass or a high melting temperature polymer fiber is introduced with the natural filler in step (c).

10. (Currently Amended) A process for producing an article from a temperature sensitive natural fibers-reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition which comprises:

(a) extrusion melt-forming through a die in a first extruder a first mixture to form first strands, the first mixture consisting essentially of a high melting temperature thermoplastic polymer ~~melting at~~ with a first melting temperature of 200°C or above, which has been pre-dried to remove moisture, ~~with a first melting temperature with~~ and at least one metal salt selected from the group consisting of lithium chloride, lithium bromide, lithium iodide, copper chloride, zinc chloride, aluminum chloride, gallium chloride, and mixtures thereof, wherein the salt reduces the melting point of the first mixture to a second lower melting temperature of less than 200°C ~~to form the first strands~~;

(b) pelletizing the first strands to form ~~second~~ pellets;

(c) extruding a second mixture of one or more temperature sensitive natural fibers~~, consisting essentially of cut fibers selected from the group consisting of a plant leaf, seed, stalk and combinations thereof,~~ and the ~~second~~ pellets in a second extruder, at the second lower melting temperature of less than 200°C without degrading the natural fibers to form second strands of the temperature sensitive

natural fibers-reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition, wherein the temperature sensitive natural fibers consist essentially of cut fibers selected from the group consisting of a plant leaf, seed, stalk and combinations thereof; and

(d) melt-forming an article from the composition of step (c), wherein the extruding and melt forming without the metal salt degrades the temperature sensitive natural fibers.

11. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 10 wherein the fibers are selected from the group consisting of hemp, flax, kenaf, jute, sisal, pineapple leaf fiber, coir, henequen, corn, cotton, and mixtures thereof.

12. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 10 wherein the fibers-reinforced composition further includes a maleated compatibilizer and one or more toughening agents selected from the group consisting of rubber, modified rubber, maleated rubber, epoxidized rubber, vegetable oil-based plasticizer, and mixtures thereof.

13. (Original) The process of Claim 10, 11, or 12 wherein the thermoplastic polymer is selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polybutylene terephthalate (PBT), polytrimethylterephthalate (PTT), ethylene carbon monoxide (ECM), propylene oxide (PPO), polystyrene copolymer blends, polyacetals, cellulose butyrate, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS), methyl methacrylates, polychlorotrifluoroethylene polymers, and mixtures thereof.

14. (Original) The process of Claim 10, 11, or 12 wherein the metal in the metal salt forms a reaction product with the thermoplastic polymer in the melt.

15. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 10 wherein the fibers-reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition is molded into a shape.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 10 wherein a glass or a high melting temperature polymer fiber is introduced with the fibers in step (c).

18. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a temperature sensitive natural filler-reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition as an article which

comprises:

(a) extrusion melt-forming through a die in a first extruder a first mixture to form first strands, the first mixture consisting essentially of a thermoplastic polymer and at least one metal chloride, bromide or iodide salt, ~~which~~ wherein (i) the thermoplastic polymer has been pre-dried to remove moisture~~, with~~ and has a melting temperature at about 200° C or above, (ii) ~~with at least one metal chloride, bromide or iodide salt, wherein~~ the salt is present in an amount between about 2.5 and 5 percent by weight of the polymer ~~which~~, and (iii) the salt reduces the melting temperature of the first mixture to less than about 200° C ~~to form the strands~~;

(b) pelletizing the first strands to form pellets; and

(c) extruding a second mixture of the temperature sensitive natural filler~~, consisting essentially of cut fibers selected from the group consisting of a plant leaf, seed, stalk and combinations thereof,~~ and the pellets in a second extruder, at less than 200° C without degrading the temperature sensitive natural filler to form second strands of the natural filler-reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition, wherein the temperature sensitive natural filler consists essentially of cut fibers selected from the group consisting of a plant leaf, seed, stalk and combinations thereof and, without the metal salt, the extrusion with the temperature sensitive natural filler degrades the temperature sensitive natural filler.

19. (Original) The process of Claim 18 wherein the thermoplastic polymer is selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polybutylene terephthalate (PBT), polytrimethylterephthalate (PTT), ethylene carbon monoxide (ECM), propylene oxide (PPO), polystyrene copolymer blends, polyacetals, cellulose butyrate, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS), methyl methacrylates, polychlorotrifluoroethylene polymers, and mixtures thereof.

20. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 18 wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of hemp, flax, kenaf, jute, sisal, pineapple leaf fiber, coir, henequen, corn, cotton, and mixtures thereof.

21. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 18 wherein the metal salt is selected from the group consisting of lithium chloride, lithium bromide, lithium iodide, copper chloride, zinc chloride, aluminum chloride, gallium chloride, and mixtures thereof.

22. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 18 wherein ~~the filler further includes~~ a glass or a high melting temperature polymer fiber is introduced with the temperature sensitive natural filler in step (c).

23. – 29. (Cancelled)